



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Little Change in Fire Activity on the Bitterroot”

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The Gash Creek Fire was active in the headwaters of the Sweathouse Creek drainage, burning to the north-northwest. The fire, despite a respectable looking column on Monday afternoon, has only grown approximately 100 acres in the past four or five days. The fire continues to consume unburned fuels within the existing fire perimeter. Acreage burned is estimated at 8500 acres and 12 people continue to patrol, mopup and secure lines around the fire.

Of the many wildland fire use fires, only the East Langdon Fire was actively burning on Monday. Little growth was reported, but the fire is burning actively enough to generate smoke.

The Hart Creek Fire, discovered on the Sula Ranger District yesterday , is a leftover from Saturday's lightning. The spot fire ~ less than a 1/10 of an acre ~ has been contained, although an engine continues to patrol.

There were two new starts on the forest today. The Kootenai II is located about 50 yards up from the trailhead. It is approximately ¼ acre in size and is well staffed at this time. No cause has yet been determined.

The Shields Creek Fire is located on the West Fork Ranger District, northwest of Lost Trail Pass. It is currently 2 acres in size. There is a helicopter doing bucket work and there are 15 firefighters working on the fire.

There is a Fire Weather Watch for Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 10:00pm.-----due to expected high winds.